



Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics

A Survey of Registered Voters in
Pennsylvania's Third
Congressional
District
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Prepared by: The Mercyhurst Center
for Applied Politics at Mercyhurst
College

Joseph M. Morris, Director
Rolfe D. Peterson, Associate
Director/Methodologist
Sean Fedorko, Project Manager

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Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics

The Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (MCAP) began operations in July 2010. Inspired by the mission of Mercyhurst College and guided by the college's core values, the center promotes reasoned discourse about problems facing communities, states and nations. It accomplishes this objective by providing elected officials, government agencies, news organizations, and nonprofits with accurate and unbiased assessments of public opinion; and offering a nonpartisan forum for public debates and roundtable discussions that address pressing public problems.

The centerpiece of MCAP is the state of the art computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) facility. The facility, which is located in the Hammermill Library, is comprised of sixteen interviewer stations and staffed by well-trained research associates. The specialized computer software used to conduct telephone interviews generates random telephone numbers in a predefined geographic area, or dials from a list, and allows research associates to accurately complete even the most complex interviews.

The center also has the ability to design and administer online surveys. This method of interviewing is ideal for organizations that have relatively up-to-date email addresses for their members. The software used by MCAP allows a researcher to administer a survey - whether short and simple or long and complex – to an unlimited number of email addresses. In addition, a researcher has the ability to monitor response rates and send out reminders, thereby ensuring that the study produces high quality results.

As the Northwestern Pennsylvania's only CATI facility whose primary purpose is to regularly and accurately gauge public opinion, the MCAP is an invaluable resource for community leaders. Each year the center conducts polls on issues of local, state and nations interest. The results of these studies are made available to the public via the college's webpage (polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap). In addition to its annual polls, the center offers its services to private parties, nonprofits, news organizations, and government agencies for minimal cost.

Methodology

This report summarizes the results of a survey of registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District which was conducted between Wednesday, September 22, 2010 and Tuesday October 5, 2010. During the 12 day field period interviewers called weekday evenings between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 PM; Sundays between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 PM; and between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM on selected weekdays. For each working phone number, interviewers made no less than four attempts to contact individuals selected to participate in the study. Calls were generated by CATI software and relied on a list of randomly selected registered voters purchased from Marketing Systems Group (<http://www.m-s-g.com/home.aspx>). In this study, 634 registered voters residing in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District were interviewed. For a sample size of 634, there is a 95 percent probability that the results are within plus or minus 3.89 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. For subsamples, the margin of error is higher (depending on the size of the subsample). Aside from the margin of sampling error, there are several factors that prevent the results obtained through a probability sample from being a perfect representation of those that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. This non-sampling error is the

result of a variety of factors including, but not limited to, response rates and question order. In this survey, a variety of techniques were employed to reduce common sources of non-sampling error.

Response Rate

Calculating a response rate for a particular study involves considering a number of variables (see http://www.aapor.org/Response_Rates_An_Overview.htm); but, simply stated, it refers to the percentage of individuals in a sample that, when contacted, elect to participate in a study by responding an interviewer's questions. In recent years, researchers have documented a sharp decline in response rates. Today, a typical study that relies on telephone interviews can expect a response rate of between 20 and 30%. Although it is unclear if, or to what extent, response rate is a source of non-sampling error, most polls strive to maximize response rate by making multiple attempts to contact individuals and taking steps to secure their cooperation once they have been reached. In this way, our study of registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District is no different than most polls: No less than four attempts were made to contact hard-to-reach individuals. These attempts occurred during weekday evenings, mornings and on Sunday afternoons. To ensure a high rate of cooperation, interviewers received training on conversion techniques that are consistent with research ethics as enforced by the Mercyhurst College Institutional Review Board. As a result of these efforts, our study obtained a response rate of 21%, which is within the range of what was expected.

Questions

This report contains the questions as worded on the questionnaire and in the order in which they were asked. Some of the questions include bracketed information,

which is, in every case, an instruction to the programmer or interviewer.

Whenever possible, question order was randomized to ensure that respondents did not receive a set order of response options, which allowed response set bias to be minimized. For structured (close-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to probe for clarity when respondents' answers were not identical to the predefined response options. For unstructured (open-ended) questions, interviewers were trained to record verbatim responses whenever possible. In cases where verbatim responses were impossible to capture due to their length or complexity, interviewers probed for clarity by asking respondents, "How would you summarize that in just a few words." In every case in which a respondent asked that a question or response options be repeated, interviewers were careful to re-read the entire question or all response options.

Data

Data collected during this study was prepared for analysis by director and associate director of Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics. Data preparation included, but was not limited to, removing partial interviews (respondent-terminated interviews) from the dataset. To maximize the accuracy of our results, sometimes data is weighted. Simply stated, weighting is when data collected from survey respondents are adjusted to represent the population from which the sample was drawn. In this study, the difference between the results obtained using weighted and unweighted data was negligible. As a result, weighting did not occur.

The survey was conducted by the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (polisci.mercyhurst.edu/mcap) under the direction of Dr. Joseph M. Morris (Director), Dr. Rolfe D. Peterson (Methodologist) and Sean Fedorko (Project Manager), and in conjunction with the *Erie Times-News*. It may be used in whole

or in part, provided the survey is attributed to the Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics at Mercyhurst College and *Erie Times-News*. Data will be available for free download at the center's website thirty days after the release of this report. Direct questions to Dr. Joseph M. Morris, Director, Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics, Mercyhurst College, 501 E. 38th Street, Erie, PA, 16546.

Key Findings

Elections

In the races for the US House of Representatives, Senate and Governor of Pennsylvania, registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional district favor the Republican candidates, although a significant number of individuals remain undecided.

In the race for the US House of Representatives, Republican candidate, Mike Kelly, is leading the Democratic candidate, Kathy Dahlkemper (44%-37%). Although 12% of registered voters have not yet decided for whom they will vote in November, there is a substantial difference between the level of enthusiasm and interest expressed by the candidates' supporters. Of those individuals who are enthusiastic about voting in this year's congressional election, 52% indicate that they will vote for Kelly; while only 36% plan to vote for Dahlkemper. Similarly, of the individuals who indicate that they are very much interested in this year's political campaigns, 56% plan to cast a vote for Kelly compared to 36% for Dahlkemper.

Interestingly, Kelly leads Dahlkemper in spite of the fact that, compared to Dahlkemper, a far higher percentage of registered voters do not recognize his name. When instructed, "For each figure or group, I would like to know if your opinion is strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable. If you don't recognize the name, then you can simply tell me and we will move to the next one," 38% of respondents indicated that they did not recognize Kelly's name and 2% indicated that they did not know. For Dahlkemper, only 6% of respondents said that they did not recognize her name and 1% said that they did not know. In spite of the fact that 40% of registered voters

do not recognize Kelly's name or do not know enough to offer an opinion about him, he is leading Dahlkemper.

Our analysis of this apparent discrepancy is that Kathy Dahlkemper's opponent in this year's election is not just Mike Kelly, but labels "Democrat" and "incumbent." This is not surprising. A majority of registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President (52% disapprove, 37% approve) and that Ed Rendell is doing as Governor (51% disapprove, 31% approve).

Other key findings related to the race for the US House of Representatives include:

- Of the individuals who voted for Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election, 17% indicate that they will be supporting the Republican congressional candidate in 2010.
- 11% of individuals who identify themselves as Democrats indicate that they will vote for the Republican candidate for Congress this November, while 7% of Republicans plan to vote for the Democratic candidate.
- Of the individuals who identify themselves as Independents, 36% plan to cast a vote for Dahlkemper, 44% plan to vote for Kelly.

As with the race for the US House of Representatives, registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District indicate a preference for the Republican candidates for governor and the US Senate. In the race for governor, Republican candidate, Tom Corbett, leads Democratic candidate, Dan Onorato (42%-36%). A sizable proportion of registered voters (17%) remain undecided. Likewise, in the race for the US Senate, Republican candidate, Pat Toomey, leads Democratic candidate, Joe Sestak (39%-31%), but many individuals remain undecided (24%).

Once again, the Republican candidates enjoy leads over their Democratic opponents in spite of the fact that a sizable proportion of registered voters do not recognize their names. In the case of Toomey and Sestak, 39% and 38% of registered voters, respectively, do not recognize their names. In the case of Onorato and Corbett, similar results were found (See Table 1).

Table 1: Is your opinion of [individual or group] strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?

| | Strongly Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Somewhat Unfavorable | Strongly Unfavorable | Neither | Don't Recognize |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Barack Obama | 18% | 32% | 17% | 32% | 1% | 0% |
| Sarah Palin | 12% | 30% | 17% | 38% | 2% | 3% |
| Ed Rendell | 8% | 32% | 21% | 28% | 5% | 5% |
| Areln Specter | 7% | 23% | 21% | 38% | 6% | 5% |
| Joe Sestak | 8% | 20% | 15% | 12% | 8% | 38% |
| Pat Toomey | 9% | 21% | 12% | 11% | 8% | 39% |
| Kathy Dahlkemper | 15% | 27% | 19% | 26% | 5% | 7% |
| Mike Kelly | 8% | 21% | 12% | 11% | 8% | 40% |
| Tom Corbett | 11% | 24% | 11% | 6% | 9% | 38% |
| Dan Onorato | 7% | 23% | 14% | 9% | 8% | 39% |
| Democratic Party | 13% | 31% | 23% | 26% | 6% | 2% |
| Republican Party | 12% | 33% | 21% | 22% | 7% | 4% |
| Tea Party | 16% | 23% | 14% | 27% | 7% | 13% |

Important Issues and Government Performance

A majority of registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District believe that things in western Pennsylvania (51%) are "off on the wrong track." While more than three quarters of registered voters (76%) believe that the most important issue facing western Pennsylvania was the lack of jobs and the economy, a plurality (42%) believe that the region's economy will be about the same this time next year. While the economy appears to be the most pressing concern, other issues are identified as the most important including healthcare (7%) and the environment (3%).

Similarly, when asked to identify the single most important issues facing the nation as a whole, 60% identify the economy or lack of jobs. A plurality of registered voters (41%) expects that the nation's economy will be about the same this time next year. While the national economy and job growth are by far the most frequently mentioned concerns of registered voters, other issues are identified as the most important. These include healthcare (6%) and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (7%) (see Table 2).

When asked about the government's performance in dealing with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, personal healthcare, gays and lesbians serving in the military, and illegal immigration, responses were mixed (see Table 3).

Table 3: Would you say [issue] is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Not At All Important | Don't Know |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| War In Afghanistan | 59% | 29% | 7% | 4% | 0% |
| War In Iraq | 53% | 31% | 10% | 5% | 1% |
| Personal Health Care | 83% | 13% | 2% | 1% | 0% |
| Gays and Lesbians in the Military | 22% | 23% | 22% | 27% | 5% |
| Abortion | 50% | 25% | 13% | 9% | 2% |
| Illegal Immigration | 65% | 24% | 6% | 3% | 1% |

Table 2: On a Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disapprove, 2 is somewhat disapprove, 4 is somewhat approve, 5 is strongly approve, and 3 is neither, I want you to rate the way government has handled the following issues in the past year.

| | Strongly Disapprove | Somewhat Disapprove | Neither | Somewhat Approve | Strongly Approve | Don't Know |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| War In Afghanistan | 19% | 23% | 29% | 21% | 4% | 3% |
| War In Iraq | 20% | 22% | 29% | 21% | 5% | 2% |
| Personal Health Care | 37% | 18% | 15% | 15% | 11% | 3% |
| Gays and Lesbians in the Military | 17% | 19% | 38% | 12% | 6% | 8% |
| Abortion | 28% | 14% | 31% | 12% | 6% | 9% |
| Illegal Immigration | 43% | 22% | 19% | 9% | 3% | 3% |

Mercyhurst/Erie Times-News Poll, Fall 2010

Interviews were completed with 634 registered voters in Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District. For a sample size of 634, there is a 95 percent probability that our survey results are within plus or minus 3.89 percentage points (the margin of sampling error) of the actual population distribution for any given question. Due to rounding, column totals may not equal 100 percent as indicated. Bracketed text was intended for the use of the programmer, while bolded, italicized and parenthetical text was instruction to the interviewer. Verbatim survey with response frequencies:

To begin, some people are not interested in political campaigns. How about you?
(NO PAUSE)

1. Would you say that you have been **very much interested, somewhat interested** or **not much interested** in the political campaigns so far this year?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Much Interested | 36% |
| Somewhat Interested | 39% |
| Not Much Interested | 25% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |

2. Would you say you are enthusiastic or not enthusiastic about voting in this year's congressional election?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Enthusiastic | 56% |
| Not Enthusiastic | 37% |
| Neither | 7% |
| RF | 0% |

3. Now, I'd like to get your opinion on the governor. Do you **approve** or **disapprove** of the job Ed Rendell is doing as Governor of Pennsylvania?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Approve | 31% |
| Disapprove | 51% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 14% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Approve | 37% |
| Disapprove | 52% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 9% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

Now, I'd like to ask your opinion on some of the key issues in the country today.

Regardless of your position on these issues, please let me know how important the following issues are to you.

[QUESTIONS 5 TO 6 APPEAR IN RANDOM ORDER]

5. Would you say the war in Afghanistan is **Very Important, Somewhat Important, Not very Important,** or **Not at all Important** to you?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 59% |
| Somewhat Important | 29% |
| Not Very Important | 7% |
| Not At All Important | 4% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |

6. Would you say The War in Iraq is **Very Important**, **Somewhat Important**, **Not very Important**, or **Not at all Important** to you?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 53% |
| Somewhat Important | 31% |
| Not Very Important | 10% |
| Not At All Important | 5% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

[QUESTIONS 7 TO 10 APPEAR IN RANDOM ORDER]

7. How about Personal Healthcare?

(Would you say Personal Healthcare is **Very Important**, **Somewhat Important**, **Not very Important**, or **Not at all Important** to you?)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 83% |
| Somewhat Important | 13% |
| Not Very Important | 2% |
| Not At All Important | 1% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |

8. How about gays and lesbians serving in the military?

(Would you say gays and lesbians is **Very Important**, **Somewhat Important**, **Not very Important**, or **Not at all Important** to you?)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 22% |
| Somewhat Important | 23% |
| Not Very Important | 22% |
| Not at all Important | 27% |
| DK | 5% |
| RF | 1% |

9. How about Abortion?

(Would you say abortion is **Very Important**, **Somewhat Important**, **Not very Important**, or **Not at all Important** to you?)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 50% |
| Somewhat Important | 25% |
| Not Very Important | 13% |
| Not at all Important | 9% |
| RF | 1% |
| DK | 2% |

10. How about Illegal Immigration?

(Would you say illegal immigration is **Very Important**, **Somewhat Important**, **Not very Important**, or **Not at all Important** to you?)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 65% |
| Somewhat Important | 24% |
| Not Very Important | 6% |
| Not At All Important | 3% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

Thinking about the issues I just listed, I would like to know whether you approve of the job government has done in addressing these issues in the past year.

On a scale of **1** to **5** where 1 is **strongly disapprove**, 2 is **somewhat disapprove**, 4 is somewhat **approve**, 5 is **strongly approve** and 3 is neither,

I want to know how you would you rate the way government has handled the following issues in the past year.

[QUESTIONS 11 TO 12 APPEAR IN RANDOM ORDER]

11. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled The War in Afghanistan?

(Where 5 is **strongly approve** and 1 is **strongly disapprove**)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 19% |
| 2 | 23% |
| 3 Neither | 29% |
| 4 | 21% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 4% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

12. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled The War in Iraq?

(Where 5 is **strongly approve** and 1 is **strongly disapprove**)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 20% |
| 2 | 22% |
| 3 Neither | 29% |
| 4 | 21% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 5% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

[QUESTIONS 13 TO 16 APPEAR IN RANDOM ORDER]

13. How about Personal Healthcare?

(On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is **strongly approve**, 1 is **strongly disapprove**, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled...)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 37% |
| 2 | 18% |
| 3 Neither | 15% |
| 4 | 15% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 11% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | - |

14. How about Gays and lesbians serving in the military?

(On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is **strongly approve**, 1 is **strongly disapprove**, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled...)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 17% |
| 2 | 19% |
| 3 Neither | 38% |
| 4 | 12% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 6% |
| DK | 8% |
| RF | 0% |

15. How about Abortion?

(On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is **strongly approve**, 1 is **strongly disapprove**, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled...)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 28% |
| 2 | 14% |
| 3 Neither | 31% |
| 4 | 12% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 6% |
| DK | 9% |
| RF | 1% |

16. How about Illegal Immigration?

(On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is **strongly approve**, 1 is **strongly disapprove**, how would you rate the way the federal government has handled...)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1 Strongly Disapprove | 43% |
| 2 | 22% |
| 3 Neither | 19% |
| 4 | 9% |
| 5 Strongly Approve | 3% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

Now I am interested in your evaluations of some people and groups in government and public affairs.

For each figure or group, I would like to know if your opinion is strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable.

If you don't recognize the name, then you can simply tell me and we will move to the next one.

[QUESTIONS 17 TO 18 APPEAR IN RANDOM ORDER]

17. Is your opinion of Barack Obama **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?**

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 18% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 32% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 17% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 32% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 1% |
| Don't Recognize Name | - |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |

18. Is your opinion of **Sarah Palin** **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?**

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 12% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 30% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 17% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 38% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 2% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 2% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

19. How about **Ed Rendell**?

(Is your opinion of Ed Rendell **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable?**)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 8% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 32% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 21% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 28% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 5% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 3% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

20. How about **Arlen Specter**?

(Is your opinion of Arlen Specter **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 7% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 23% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 21% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 38% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 6% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 4% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

21. How about **Joe Sestak**?

(Is your opinion of Joe Sestak **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 8% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 20% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 15% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 12% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 8% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 36% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

22. How about **Pat Toomey**?

(Is your opinion of Pat Toomey **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 9% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 21% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 12% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 11% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 8% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 36% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

23. How about **Kathy Dahlkemper**?

(Is your opinion of Kathy Dahlkemper **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 15% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 27% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 19% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 26% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 5% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 6% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 1% |

24. How about **Mike Kelly**?

(Is your opinion of Mike Kelly **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 8% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 21% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 12% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 11% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 8% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 38% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 1% |

25. How about **Tom Corbett**?

(Is your opinion of Tom Corbett **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 11% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 24% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 11% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 6% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 9% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 34% |
| DK | 4% |
| RF | 0% |

26. How about **Dan Onorato**?

(Is your opinion of Dan Onorato **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 7% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 23% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 14% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 9% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 8% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 36% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

27. How about **The Democratic Party**?

(Is your opinion of the Democratic Party **strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 13% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 31% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 23% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 26% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 6% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 1% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

28. How about the **Republican Party**?

(Is your opinion of the Republican Party **strongly favorable**, **somewhat favorable**, **somewhat unfavorable**, or **strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 12% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 33% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 21% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 22% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 7% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 2% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

29. How about The **Tea Party**?

(Is your opinion of the Tea Party **strongly favorable**, **somewhat favorable**, **somewhat unfavorable**, or **strongly unfavorable**?)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Favorable | 16% |
| Somewhat Favorable | 23% |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | 14% |
| Strongly Unfavorable | 27% |
| Neither (respondent offered) | 7% |
| Don't Recognize Name | 11% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 0% |

Now, I'd like to get your opinion on current issues facing Western Pennsylvania and the nation as a whole.

First, I want to know what you think about Western Pennsylvania.

30. What do you think is the single, **most important issue** facing **Western Pennsylvania**? [Open Ended]

[Results may not total up to 100% due to rounding.]

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Economy | 11% |
| Jobs | 65% |
| Immigration | 1% |
| Health Care | 7% |
| Environment/Energy | 3% |
| Taxes..... | 2% |
| No Response..... | 4% |
| Others (less than 1% each) | 8% |

31. Generally speaking, do you feel things in Western Pennsylvania are headed in the **right direction**, or do you feel that things are off on the **wrong track**?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Right Direction | 31% |
| Wrong Track | 51% |
| Neither | 12% |
| DK | 6% |
| RF | 1% |

32. Do you **expect** Western Pennsylvania's economy to get **better**, stay about the **same**, or get **worse** by this time next year?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Get Worse | 18% |
| Stay About The Same | 42% |
| Get Better | 35% |
| Neither | 2% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

33. Now thinking about the country as a whole, what do you think is the single **most important issue** facing **the nation**? [Open Ended]

[Results may not total up to 100% due to rounding.]

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Economy..... | 21% |
| Jobs/Employment | 39% |
| Iraq and Afghanistan War | 7% |
| Big Government | 2% |
| Immigration | 3% |
| National Security | 2% |
| Dissatisfaction with Government | 3% |

34. Generally speaking, do you feel things in the **country** are going in the **right direction**, or do you feel that things are off on the **wrong track**?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Right Direction | 26% |
| Wrong Track | 64% |
| Neither | 7% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 1% |

35. Do you **expect** the **nation's** economy to get **better**, stay about the **same**, or get **worse** by this time next year?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Get Worse | 24% |
| Stay About The Same | 41% |
| Get Better | 33% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about elections.

36. In the 2008 presidential election, **Barack Obama** ran against **John McCain**. Do you remember for **sure** whether or not you voted in that election?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Yes, Voted | 94% |
| No, Didn't Vote | 6% |
| DK/Don't Recall (DON'T PROBE) . | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

[IF THE ANSWER IS 3, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 38]

37. Which presidential candidate did you vote for?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama | 46% |
| John McCain | 45% |
| Someone Else | 2% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 5% |

38. So far as you know now, do you expect to vote in the elections this coming November or not?"

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 90% |
| No | 6% |
| DK | 4% |
| RF | 0% |

39. In our congressional district, the Democratic Candidate Kathy Dahlkemper is running against Republican candidate Mike Kelly.

If the election were held today, would you vote for **Kathy Dahlkemper** or **Mike Kelly** for the U.S. House of Representatives?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Dahlkemper | 37% |
| Kelly | 44% |
| Not Sure/Undecided | 12% |
| Someone Else/Neither | 2% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 2% |

40. In the race for the U.S. Senate, the Democratic Candidate Joe Sestak is running against Republican candidate Pat Toomey.

If the election were held today, would you vote for **Joe Sestak** or **Pat Toomey** for the U.S. Senate?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Sestak | 31% |
| Toomey | 39% |
| Not Sure/Undecided | 24% |
| Someone Else/Neither | 1% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 2% |

41. In the race for governor, the Democratic Candidate Dan Onorato is running against Republican candidate Tom Corbett.

If the election were held today, would you vote for **Dan Onorato** or **Tom Corbett** for the governor?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Onorato | 36% |
| Corbett | 42% |
| Not Sure/Undecided | 17% |
| Someone Else/Neither | 1% |
| DK | 2% |
| RF | 2% |

42. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a **Republican**, a **Democrat**, or an **Independent**?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 34% |
| Republican | 35% |
| Independent | 27% |
| Other Party (respondent offered) | 0% |
| No Preference (respondent offered) | 2% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 1% |

[IF THE ANSWER IS 1, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 44]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 2, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 43]

[IF THE ANSWER IS 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 45]

43. Would you call yourself a **strong** Republican or a **not very strong** Republican?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Strong | 63% |
| Not Very Strong | 35% |
| DK | 1% |
| RF | 0% |

[IF THE ANSWER IS 1 OR 3 OR 7 OR 8, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 46]

44. Would you call yourself a **strong** Democrat or a **not very strong** Democrat?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Strong | 56% |
| Not Very Strong | 41% |
| DK | 3% |
| RF | 0% |

[IF THE ANSWER IS 1 OR 3 OR 7 OR 8, THEN SKIP TO QUESTION 46]

45. Do you think of yourself as closer to the **Republican Party** or to the **Democratic Party**?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Closer to Republican party | 40% |
| Closer to Democratic party | 31% |
| Neither (Respondent Offered) | 29% |

46. Generally speaking, would you consider yourself to be a **liberal**, a **conservative**, a **moderate**, or have you **not thought much about this**?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Liberal | 11% |
| Conservative | 33% |
| Moderate | 23% |
| Haven't Thought Much About This . | 31% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |

47. (RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER. IF UNSURE, ASK: "Are you")

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male..... | 41% |
| Female | 59% |
| DK | 0% |
| RF | 0% |